

Center for Gonorrhea Excellence

May 2023 E-Newsletter

Welcome!

Response to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG) grant in Indiana and has become a centralized repository of information on best practices related to management of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections, especially as it relates to the threat of antibiotic resistant gonorrhea (ARGC).



The center also focuses on improving the quality of data pertaining to people diagnosed with gonorrhea, which will improve our understanding of the risk factors associated with acquiring gonorrhea and the healthcare seeking behaviors practiced by patients that have been diagnosed. These activities will be included in another CDC-funded project in Indiana, the **STD Surveillance Network (SSuN)** grant and will enhance our STD surveillance activities at the state and local level.

Gonorrhea in the news

CDC urges awareness of extensively drug-resistant *Shigella* infections

On February 24, public health officials across the US received an official CDC health advisory urging awareness of an increase in extensive drug-resistant *Shigella* infections (shigellosis). *Shigella* is an easily transmissible bacteria, causing acute enteric illness—an important cause of domestically acquired and travel-associated bacterial diarrhea in the United States. XDR *Shigella* strains are resistant to all commonly recommended empiric and alternative antibiotics. Historically, *Shigella* predominantly affected young children under the age of 4, but recent increases have been seen in adult populations, including men who have sex with men (MSM) and people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

New research on the use of Doxycycline as PEP for Bacterial STIs

A recent NIH-funded study attests to the potential use of Doxycycline as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for MSM and transgender women with history of recent bacterial STIs. Doxy-PEP refers to the use of doxycycline taken within 24 hours (but not later than 72 hours) after condomless sex. With rising rates of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, Doxy-PEP may prevent patients from acquiring STIs, with study results suggesting that incidences of the three evaluated STIs were lower with Doxy-PEP.

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

Information hub

The following sections provide specific resources available from the center as they pertain to best practices around gonorrhea. If you'd like to see more resources in these hubs, please [let us know](#).

Did you know?



Only about half of teen mothers obtain their high school diploma by the time they are 22 years old, compared to 90% of women who did not give birth as teens.

Provider resources



May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month! Are you aware of the ability for minors to consent to reproductive health services in Indiana and surrounding states? With ever changing policies pertaining to sexual health across the United States, many resources exist for sexual health providers who serve teens and young adults. The Guttmacher Institute recently published an Overview of Consent to Reproductive Health Services by Young People. [CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

Data & surveillance: Drug-resistant shigellosis in Indiana



Since 2023, 52 cases of shigellosis have been reported to the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Preparedness division (IDEPD) at IDOH. An increase has been seen in certain populations, including MSM (33% of cases), people living with HIV (23%) and international travelers (25%). The majority of cases in Indiana have occurred in males, with an average age of 37 years. Thus far, whole genome sequencing suggests that at least 17 (of 34 tested) *Shigella* samples have displayed resistance to one or more antibiotics.

Recent ARGC and public health literature

- [UMass Chan researchers explain risk of spread in novel gonorrhea strain](#)
- [Fascinating Molecular and Immune Escape Mechanisms in the Treatment of STIs](#)
- [It is not just the Southeast—Geographically Pervasive Racial Disparities in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Between Non-Hispanic Black and White US Women](#)

Upcoming events

- [Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair: July 13-16th](#)

State & federal resources

- [STD prevention website](#)
- [Center for Gonorrhea Excellence website](#)
- [CDC Division of STD Prevention](#)



Prepping for Pride

The summer months bring sunshine, relaxation, and LGBTQ Pride month! Pride is celebrated annually in June, and is an opportunity for LGBTQ individuals and allies to come together to celebrate the vibrance, resilience, and joy of the queer community.

As we prepare for the many festivals and events happening across Indiana, remember to stay up to date on your sexual healthcare, including regular HIV/STI testing and PrEP use.

With the recent resurgence of mpox cases in Chicago, it is also recommended that certain populations receive the two-dose JYNNEOS [vaccine](#). Maximum protection from vaccine occurs approximately 2 weeks after the second dose, and the vaccine is free to all.

Editor's Desk



Have news or literature you'd like to see featured?
Have an event coming up you'd like to share?

Contact the newsletter editor to submit for distribution.

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To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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